

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 /082 W
-----111015Z 002460 /12

P R 110849Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1441

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0234

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA KS

SUBJ: ENDO VISIT: U.S. TROOP LEVELS, CONTINENTAL SHELF,
JAPAN-NORTH KOREA, 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

REF:76 SEOUL 10179 (DTG 270810Z DEC 76)(NOTAL)

JAPANESE FONOFF NE ASIA DIVISION DIRECTOR ENDO VISITED SEOUL
JANUARY 4-7 AS SCHEDULED AND DURING JANUARY 5 LUNCH WITH DCM
AND AFTERNOON MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. ENDO OPENED CONVERSATIONS BY SAYING THAT JAPANESE RE-
GARDED QUESTION OF U.S. TROOP LEVELS, AS IT RELATED TO STA-
BILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA, AS OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO JAPAN.
HE WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOME FORM OF INTER-
NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE GREAT POWERS REGARDING KOREA
AS A PREREQUISITE TO ANY ACTUAL DRAWDOWN OF U.S. FORCES ON THE
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PENINSULA, AND ADVOCATED INCREASED PRIORITY BE GIVEN KOREAN
ISSUE IN US'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW. ENDO PROBED
AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH FOR INDICATION THAT THERE WAS SOME ACTUAL
PROSPECT OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF PEKING AND MOSCOW TO
ENTER INTO SOME FORM OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE FUTURE STABILITY
OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS A CONCOMITANT OF A U.S. FORCE WITH-
DRAWAL PACKAGE. HE DID NOT ATTACH NEARLY AS MUCH SIGNIFICANCE

TO THE STRENGTHENING OF ROK DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC CAPABILITY TO THE POINT WHERE THE RISK OF UNILATERAL NORTH KOREAN ACTION MIGHT BE REDUCED AS TO A FORM OF GREAT POWER UNDERSTANDING. ENDO ADDED THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH ROKS INDICATED THAT ROKG EXPECTS JAPANESE TO ACT AS ROK SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON ON ISSUE OF CONTINUED STATIONING OF U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA. WHEN ASKED IF JAPAN INTENDED TO PLAY THIS ROLE, ENDO REPLIED QTE YES UNQTE WITH A SMILE. (COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ENDO MAY WELL INTEND TO USE HIS PROJECTED WASHINGTON VISIT TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH U.S. OFFICIALS THE ISSUE OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL AS IT RELATES TO GREAT POWER INTERESTS IN THE PENINSULA AS OUTLINED ABOVE.)

2. ENDO SAID HE REGARDED NEXT REGULAR DIET SESSION AS QTE LAST CHANCE UNQTE TO RATIFY LONG PENDING ROK-JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT 16-14 LDP MAJORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GAVE GOJ SLIGHTLY BETTER CHANCE THAN HAD APPEARED TO BE THE CASE JUST AFTER LOWER HOUSE ELECTION, ENDO THOUGHT RATIFICATION HAD NO BETTER THAN FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF PASSAGE. HE SAID MARGIN IN LOWER HOUSE WAS SLIGHTLY FAVORABLE BUT UPPER HOUSE WAS EVENLY SPLIT. ON POSITIVE SIDE HE THOUGHT FUKUDA ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAKE FIRST SINCERE EFFORT TO SECURE DIET RATIFICATION FOLLOWING SERIES OF HALF-HEARTED EFFORTS BY MIKI.

3. ENDO SAID ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN WOULD PROBABLY STOP OFF IN TOKYO FOR MEETING WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT LEADERS FOLLOWING ROK CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN U.S. SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY. ENDO INDICATED SUCCESS OF TALKS WOULD TO SOME DEGREE DEPEND ON ATMOSPHERE WHICH MIGHT OBTAIN AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TIME OF TOKYO MEETING. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED JANUARY 7 ISSUE OF NEW REPUBLIC WHICH HE SAID WAS RUMORED TO CARRY AN ARTICLE ON JAPANESE ELEMENT TO CURRENT KOREAN SCANDALS IN U.S. ENDO SAID THE NEXT FULL-SCALE ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN TOKYO FOLLOWING THE REGULAR DIET SESSION.

4. ENDO SAID HE HAD TALKED TO MEMBERS OF JAPANESE DELEGATION WHO HAD RETURNED FROM RENEGOTIATING DEBT REPAYMENT SCHEDULE WITH NORTH KOREANS IN PYONGYANG JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR SEOUL. HE SAID JAPANESE HAD AGREED ON SEVEN AND ONE HALF PERCENT INTEREST RATE WITH REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL DEFERRED FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS USING A MIXED FORMULA. PAYMENT DUE IN 1975 WAS DEFERRED FOR THREE YEARS, PAYMENT DUE IN 1976 DEFERRED FOR TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS, AND PAYMENT DUE IN 1977 AND 1978 WAS DEFERRED FOR TWO YEARS. HE SAID THAT THE DELEGATION HAD GONE TO PYONGYANG INTENDING TO BE MUCH TOUGHER WITH THE NORTH KOREANS-- THEY ORIGINALLY HASKED FOR TEN PERCENT INTEREST--BUT THE NORTH-ERNERS HAD BEEN SUFFICIENTLY MODERATE AND SINCERE IN EXPLAINING

THEIR ECONOMIC PREDICAMENT THAT THE JAPANESE, APPARENTLY SURPRISED AT UNACCUSTOMED MODERATION FROM NORTH KOREANS DECIDED TO GIVE THEM A BREAK.

5. ENDO SAID JAPAN WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S FISHING RIGHTS IN SEA OF JAPAN IF ROK ADOPTS 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. HE SAID PROBLEM WOULD ARISE FROM CONFLICTING JAPANESE AND ROK CLAIMS TO TAKESHIMA (TOK-DO). IF MEDIAN LINE WITH TOK-DO CONSIDERED TO BE KOREAN TERRITORY, JAPAN WOULD LOSE 130,000 TONS OF FISH WORTH 100 MILLION DOLLARS. ADDITIONALLY, A RELATIVELY HIGH PROPORTION OF THE JAPANESE FISHING FLEET WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, SINCE THE MORE NUMEROUS SMALLER FISHING VESSELS FISH IN THE AFFECTED AREA.
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